

arizona coalition against domestic violence 2013 legislative priorities April 8th, 2013

Our 2013 legislative priorities include:

Budget

The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence supports the full expansion of Medicaid due to the impact it would have for survivors of domestic violence who are in need of Medicaid or who already receive Medicaid through AHCCCS. We also support the additional funding for CPS to aide in the current need for investigators to handle the overwhelming case loads CPS currently has. The coalition continues to support full funding at the Governor's Request for CPS. Child safety is very much on the forefront of providing full funding for CPS as research has shown that there is an overlap between domestic violence and child abuse. Full funding for CPS would connect children with a safe and permanent family. However, we understand that while funding CPS is valuable we believe more funding needs to go into preventative services such as, domestic violence services, child care providers and early intervention programs, to reduce the number of children who end up in CPS services in the first place.

We support the following measures:

❖ HB 2383 (domestic violence; arrest; predominant aggressor) − Representative Justin Pierce

This bill creates factors for law enforcement to consider in identifying the predominant aggressor when there are conflicting reports of domestic violence. The bill passed through the Senate Judiciary committee on 3/18/2013 with a harmful amendment that would deter from the intent of the legislation. We continue to work to remove the amendment as the legislation continues to move forward.

❖ HB 2392 (confidential information; protective orders; injunctions) – Representative Justin Pierce

 HB 2392 makes information collected by law enforcement or the courts for the purposes of service of protective orders and injunctions confidential. The bill passed Senate Judiciary committee on 03/18/2013 and is awaiting third read in the Senate.

We oppose the following measures:

❖ SB 1072 (parenting time; relocation of child) – Senator Nancy Barto

SB 1072 strikes the current relocation statute that requires notification of relocation to be over 100 miles or out of state, and would now require notification to the non-moving parent of any relocation of the moving parent. This bill also places the burden on the moving parent to petition the court to move if the non-moving parent files an objection. SB 1072 passed out of the House Reform Human Services committee on 3/21. We continue to work with the sponsor on SB 1072 to address our concerns and how this legislation will negatively impact victims of domestic violence.

We are tracking the following bills:

SB 1236 (domestic relations committee; membership)-Senator Adam Driggs

 Would clarify membership for seats on the Domestic Relations Committee and create an additional seat for a domestic relations attorney. This bill is awaiting third read in the House.

SB 1172 (qualifying charitable credit; itemizing deductions)- Senator Steve Yarbrough

 Would remove the requirement of itemized deductions in order to qualify to receive a charitable organization tax credit. This bill is awaiting Rules committee in the House.

❖ HB 2517 (domestic violence; arrest) – Representative Justin Pierce

 HB 2517 would change the mandatory arrest laws for domestic violence to only apply to persons age 15 or older. Law enforcement would still have the discretion to arrest under the age of 15 but would not be required to make an arrest if it was unnecessary.